

Message Text

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ATHENS PASS SENATOR JAVITS

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP(CODEL JAVITS)

SUBJ: SENATOR JAVITS' REMARKS TO PRESS AT BEN-GURION AIRPORT
BEFORE LEAVING ISRAEL, TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 1978

1. FOLLOWING ARE SENATOR JAVITS' REMARKS TO THE PRESS AT
BEN-GURION AIRPORT BEFORE LEAVING ISRAEL, TUESDAY MARCH 28.
2. SENATOR JAVITS' OPENING REMARKS:
3. I'VE HAD A VERY INTERESTING VISIT HERE AND I HAVE MET
MANY MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER, AS
WELL AS MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION, AND I'VE BEEN MUCH
ENLIGHTENED AS TO THEIR VIEWS. I ALSO HAD A SENTIMENTAL VISIT,
WHICH IS VERY IMPORTANT TO ME AS A PERSON, WITH FORMER PRIME
MINISTER GOLDA MEIR WHO, I AM GLAD TO REPORT, IS WELL AND
LEAVING THE HOSPITAL TODAY. MY CONCLUSIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:
THERE IS NOTHING BETWEEN MY COUNTRY AND ISRAEL WHICH IN MY
JUDGMENT CANNOT BE SETTLED ON THE BASIS OF THE FRIENDSHIP
AND THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WHICH HAS EXISTED SINCE THE
FOUNDATION OF THE STATE, AND I HOPE VERY MUCH THAT BOTH
COUNTRIES WILL NOW TURN THEIR ATTENTION TO A CLEAR
UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR DIFFERENCES AND HOW THEY MAY BE
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RECONCILED. I HOPE THAT THIS WILL BE DONE ON A VERY HIGH
LEVEL - NOT NECESSARILY AT THE SUMMIT - AS WE'VE ALREADY
HAD A SUMMIT BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND PRIME MINISTER
BEGIN AND PRIME MINISTER BEGIN WILL BE VISITNG US
AGAIN, I UNDERSTAND, TOWARD THE END OF APRIL OR ON THE
FIRST OF MAY, BUT PERHAPS AT THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S LEVEL
IN THE SHAPE OF A COMMITTEE OR A COMMISSION WHICH I HOPE

WILL BE DESIGNATED BY EACH COUNTRY FOR THE PURPOSE OF
CONSIDERING THE U.S. IDEAS IN RESPONSE TO THE IDEAS PUT
BEFORE US AND THE WORLD IN THE PEACE PLAN AND IN THE SUBSEQUENT
WASHINGTON CONVERSATIONS BY PRIME MINISTER BEGIN. I STILL
BELIEVE, AS I DID IN DECEMBER, THAT THE PEACE PLAN PROPOSED
BY PRIME MINISTER BEGIN IS - AS OUR PRESIDENT HAS SAID -
A FAIR BASIS FOR DISCUSSION BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL WITH
THE MEDIATION OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. I AM VERY
PLEASED TO SEE FROM CURRENT PRESS REPORTS THAT THE SENTIMENT
IN THE UNITED STATES IS TO AFFORD AN OPPORTUNITY. THE
PERIOD MOST OFTEN MENTIONED IS SEVERAL WEEKS IN WHICH THESE
IDEAS WHICH HAVE BEEN PUT FORWARD BY PRIME MINISTER BEGIN
MAY BE DISCUSSED AND CONSIDERED AND IN WHICH U.S. IDEAS
MAY BE DISCUSSED AND CONSIDERED WITH A VIEW TOWARD A
COMMON POSITION - AT LEAST AS A BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS
BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT. ALSO THAT BOTH SIDES, THAT IS
EGYPT AND ISRAEL, AS WELL AS THE UNITED STATES, CONSIDER
THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS AS ONGOING, AS WORTHY OF CONTINUANCE,
AND I HOPE ALSO WITH THE OPTIMISTIC FEELING THAT THEY MAY
BE CONSUMMATED. AGAIN, I PAY TRIBUTE BOTH TO PRESIDENT
SADAT'S HISTORIC INITIATIVE IN COMING TO JERUSALEM AND
PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S HISTORIC INITIATIVE IN WELCOMING
HIM TO JERUSALEM AND THEN IN PROPOSING APEACE PLAN WHICH
CAN FEASIBLY BE A BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PARTIES
AND I SHALL PERSONALLY DO MY UTMOST TO FORWARD THIS PROCESS.

4. Q: SENATOR: I HAVE A QUESTION. YOU WERE TALKING
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ABOUT U.S. MEDIATION, YET WE'VE HEARD MANY PEOPLE SUCH
AS FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN SAYING THAT THE BEST WAY TO
ACHIEVE PEACE IS DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN EGYPT AND
ISRAEL, AND THE SECOND PART OF MY QUESTION IS HOW CAN YOU
ASSURE US OR ANYBODY ASSURE US THAT THE MEDIATOR, NAMELY
THE UNITED STATES, WILL NOT TURN FROM MEDIATOR TO ARBITRATOR?

5. A: THE UNITED STATES IS NOT A VOLUNTEER; I DO NOT
BELIEVE THAT THE PEACE PROCESS WOULD HAVE GOTTEN AS FAR AS
IT HAS, AND OBVIOUSLY IT'S ONLY GOTTEN A LIMITED DISTANCE
WITHOUT THE UNITED STATES, BUT IT IS NOT A VOLUNTEER.
IN MY JUDGMENT, MY COUNTRY IS VERY PLEASED TO SEE ANY
NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PARTIES WHICH WILL BE FRUITFUL,
AND NOT TO CONSIDER ITS PRESENCE AS ANYTHING BUT FACILITATING

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THE NEGOTIATIONS, AND LET US REMEMBER THAT IT WAS EGYPT AND ISRAEL THAT INVITED SECRETARY VANCE TO SIT WITH THEM IN THEIR POLITICAL COMMITTEE AND IN MY JUDGMENT THAT IS THE ONLY WAY THE UNITED STATES WANTS IT, SO I SEE NOTHING IN UNITED STATES' ACTION OR DESIRES WHICH WOULD, IN ANY WAY, INTERFERE WITH OR HAMPER, LIMIT OR RESTRICT DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EYGP. AS TO WHETHER THE UNITED STATES WILL BE AN ARBITRATOR INSTEAD OF A MEDIATOR, ON-ONE CAN FORETELL HOW DIFFERENT PEOPLE CONSTRUE THE POSTURE OF A THIRD GOVERNMENT, BUT I REALLY BELIEVE THE UNITED STATES WISHES HONESTLY TO BE A MEDIATOR AND THAT WE MUST BE SCRUPULOUS AND CAREFUL IN ALL OUR POLICY, SOLELY TO HAVE THAT ROLE AND I BELIEVE THAT IS HELPED BY THE FACT THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, PRESIDENT CARTER, AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE MR. VANCE, HAVE RENOUNCED EITHER ANY CONDITIONING OF THE MILITARY AND NON-MILITARY AID TO ISRAEL UPON THE PROGRESS OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS AND HAVE ALSO RENOUNCED ANY EFFORT, DIRECT OR INDIRECT, TO COERCE ISRAEL, BY BIRTUE OF THE DEGREE OF HER DEPENDENCE UPON THE UNITED STATES.

6. Q: SENATOR, DO YOU CONFIRM THE NEAR FUTURE VISIT OF
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FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN TO THE UNITED STATES?

7. A: I CAN'T DO THAT, THAT'S SOMETHING FOR THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT OR MR. DAYAN TO DO.

8. Q: YOU MENTIONED IT IN THE OPENING STATEMENT.

9. A: WELL, I MENTIONED THAT MR. BEGIN WAS DUE FOR THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY, NOT DAYAN. I SAID NOTHING ABOUT DAYAN.

9. Q: YOU WERE SUGGESTING THAT ...

10. A: I SUGGESTED THAT EACH GOVERNMENT DESIGNATE A COMMITTEE OR COMMISSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING THE U.S. IDEAS IN JUXTAPOSITION TO MR. BEGIN'S IDEAS BUT I HAVE NO ASSURANCE THAT ANY SUCH THING IS GOING TO BE DONE, OR THAT MR. BEGIN WILL GO.

11. Q: DID YOU SUGGEST IT TO MR. BEGIN?

12. A: I HAVE SUGGESTED TO EVERYONE I HAVE SEEN HERE, THAT APPROACH.

13. Q: SENATOR, DO YOU SEE A SOFTENING IN THE QUASI HARD-LINE THAT ISRAEL HAS BEEN TAKING?

14. A: I CANNOT CHARACTERIZE ISRAEL'S LINE AS HARD OR SOFT. I BELIEVE I RECOGNIZE - I BELIEVE THE UNITED STATES AS A GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES - ISRAEL'S VERY URGENT SECURITY NEEDS AND SECURITY DANGERS AND THEREFORE I BELIEVE THAT THESE MATTERS REMAIN TO BE NEGOTIATED - HOW CAN PEACE BE OBTAINED CONSISTENT WITH ARAB ASPIRATIONS AND ISRAEL'S NEEDS, AND THIS IS THE CHALLENGE TO STATESMANSHIP; I CANNOT CHARACTERIZE IT AS A HARDLINE OR A SOFT LINE, NOR AM I WILLING TO APPRAISE THE CONDUCT OF THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT. THAT IS FOR ISRAEL ITSELF AND ITS PEOPLE TO DO. I WILL SAY THIS - THAT I HAVE BEEN RECEIVED WITH THE UTMOST WARMTH, I HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED WITH THE UTMOST FRANKNESS, I SEE EVERY DISPOSITION HERE TO PURSUE THE EFFORT TO ATTAIN PEACE.

15. Q: SENATOR, DO YOU SEE AN ENCOUNTER COMING UP IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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UNITED STATES - OR TAKING PLACE IN THE UNITED STATES, BETWEEN AMERICAN JEWRY AND THE ADMINISTRATION?

16. A: I DO NOT SEE ANY ENCOUNTERS. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WHO ARE OF JEWISH FAITH ARE AMERICANS, AND THEY WILL BEHAVE AS DO THE OVER 200 MILLION OTHER AMERICANS. THEY HAVE THIS VERY SPECIAL FEELING FOR ISRAEL WHICH WE EXPRESS, I INCLUDE MYSELF, IN OUR VOLUNTARY ACTIVITIES, IN OUR SUPPORT OF VARIOUS DRIVES FOR SETTLEMENT, FOR HEALTH, FOR HOUSING, FOR WELFARE, FOR EDUCATION AND WHEN IT COMES TO A CRITICAL JUDGMENT, I BELIEVE AMERICAN JEWS ARE DEEPLY INTERESTED IN PEACE IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD AND I BELIEVE ALL AMERICANS ARE, AS CONTRIBUTING TO THE TOTAL PEACE OF THE WORLD, BUT I CANNOT SINGLE OUT ANY CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE JEWS OF AMERICAN AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. IN THE FIRST PLACE WE ARE NOT A MONOLITH. WE ARE OF ALL PARTIES AND OF ALL VIEWS AND AS I SAY, MOST JEWISH PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES HAVE A VERY SPECIAL REGARD FOR ISRAEL AND THE FACT THAT IT IS A HOME FOR THE PERSECUTED AND A GREAT REDEMPTION OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE WHO HAVE SUFFERED SO MUCH IN TERMS OF GIVING THEM A PERMANENT PLACE WHICH IS THEIRS. BUT THAT

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I THINK IS A GENERAL IDENTITY OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE OF
THE UNITED STATES.

17. Q: IS THAT IN YOUR OPINION THE REASON FOR THE DIFFERENCE
OF OPINIONS THAT EXISTED FOR A WHILE, AND MAYBE STILL DOES
BETWEEN RABBI SCHINDLER AND PROF. BRZEZINSKI?

18. A: I CANNOT TELL, RABBI SCHINDLER IS AN INDIVIDUAL.

I HAVE SAID BEFORE, AND I REPEAT AGAIN, I KNOW MR. BRZEZINSKI
WELL, HE IS NOT AN ANTI-SEMIT. HE MAY DIFFER IN POLICY
WITH OTHER AMERICANS -- RABBI SCHINDLER OR ANYONE ELSE --
BUT IT IS NOT BASED UPON ANYTHING BUT HIS HONEST VIEW.
IN MY JUDGMENT, AS TO WHAT IS IN THE HIGHEST NATIONAL
INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES, AND WHAT IS IN THE INTEREST
OF PEACE, AND I BELIEVE THAT IS EQUALLY TRUE OF RABBI
SCHINDLER.

19. Q: WOULD YOU POINT OUT, SENATOR, WHAT IS IN YOUR
OPINION THE MAIN OBSTACLE TO PEACE OR TO THE CURRENT
NEGOTIATIONS WITH EGYPT?

20. A: WELL I BELIEVE THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
HAS POINTED OUT THE MAIN DIFFERENCES OF OPINION AND
THEY RELATE TO ESSENTIALLY THE SETTLEMENTS, TO THE
APPLICABILITY OF UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTION 242, THOSE
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SEEM TO BE THE TWO MAJOR POINTS UPON WHICH THERE IS A

DIFFERENCE OF VIEW. I DO NOT BELIEVE IT IS IRRECONCILABLE
AND I BELIEVE - I AM HOPING VERY MUCH - THAT FOR THE IMMEDIATE
OBJECTIVE WHICH IS AN AGREED UPON STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES
AS TO THE FUTURE OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE OTHER ARAB
STATES BY ISRAEL AND EGYPT THAT THIS CAN BE ARRIVED AT.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
LEWIS

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